

XXIV.—DRAFTS FOR A FAUNA INDICA. By ED. BLYTH,  
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## The DOVES

Are generally smaller and more delicately formed, with the tail commonly more or less lengthened and graduated, this latter character attaining a high degree of development in certain groups of them. The nearest approach to the wood-pigeons is exhibited by the North American passenger doves (*Ectopistes*, Sw.), which are especially characterized by having a long, much graduated and sharp-pointed tail, and powerful wings, of which the first two primaries are equal and longest; they have the true pigeon-like play of colours on the sides of the neck. The African *Ena capensis* has been generally placed near *Ectopistes*, but (so far as can be judged from drawings) would appear rather to approximate certain of the *Macropygia* of the Eastern Archipelago, as *M. Reinwardtii*. To the last-named group one Indian species appertains.

MACROPYGIÆ, Swainson: *Coccyzura*, Hodgson. (CUCKOO-DOVES.)

The species of this division are remarkable for their very broad, long and much graduated tail, and general Cuckoo-like figure. They chiefly inhabit the great Eastern Archipelago, a single species occurring in the Himalaya, and another in Australia. For the most part they are confined to rocky upland forests, and subsist much on berries, often descending to the ground to pick up fallen mast and fruits; upon being disturbed, their great broad tail shows to much advantage as they rise. The species of the Archipelago are very injurious to the pepper and other spice plantations; and their flesh is highly esteemed for the table, from the fine flavour said to be imparted to it by the various aromatic berries on which they feed.

M. LEPTOGRAMMICA: *Col. leptogrammica*, Temminck, Pl. Col. 248: *Coccyzura tusalia*, Hodgson, Journ. As. Soc. xiii. p. 936. (RAYED CUCKOO-DOVE.) Upper parts dusky, with numerous narrow rufous bars on the mantle, wings, rump and upper tail-coverts; tail more obscurely barred in the male; forehead, chin and throat whitish, tinged with lake; the occiput, neck and breast dull pale vinaceous, glossed (less brightly on the breast) with changeable green and amethystine-purple; lower parts yellowish-albescent, the under tail-coverts pale buff; all but the four middle tail-feathers ashy, with a broad black subterminal band;

\* From the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, no. 169.

and above this band the exterior web of the outermost tail-feather is whitish. Female having the tail barred with narrow rufous cross-lines, like the rest of the upper parts; and the fore-neck and breast are similarly rayed with alternate dusky and pale buff. The tail-feathers, more especially of the female, have their inner webs rufous at base. Bill black; cere, orbits and legs red. Wings  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 inches; middle tail-feathers the same, the outermost  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

The above descriptions are taken from a fine characteristic male and female; considerable variation of plumage occurring, as many specimens are in different degrees intermediate. This bird inhabits the Eastern Himalaya, and is common at Darjeeling.

TURTUR, Selby. (The TURTLE-DOVES.) (*G'hoogoo*, Bengal; *Fachtah*, H.; *Gya*, Arracan.)

Small and delicately formed tree-pigeons, with the tail moderately graduated or merely rounded, having always broad gray or grayish-white tips to its graduating outer feathers; neck devoid of iridescent gloss. They feed chiefly on the ground, upon grain, small pulse and oil-seeds; assemble in small flocks except when breeding, and generally prefer groves and coppices which intersperse the open country, coming much into gardens, where sometimes they may be seen nearly as familiar as domestic pigeons. In such situations they breed abundantly, constructing the slight platform-nests common to all arboreal *Columbidæ*; and in warm climates they have no special season for propagation, but produce alike at all times of the year, the same as domestic pigeons. As compared with the large true wood-pigeons, these birds are certainly much more terrene in their habits\*; but they grade towards the wood-pigeons in *Turtur picturatus* (*T. Dufresnii*) of the Isle of France, which however is a true turtle-dove, having merely a larger bill than its congeners. Their geographical range is confined to the old world, inclusive of Australia, and the only Australian species (*T. humeralis*) is coloured like the *Geopeliæ*; which last are indeed but a subgenus of the present group, consisting of smaller and more slender-formed species, with delicate rayed plumage, and which are confined in their distribution to the Malay countries and Australia†.

\* They resemble the generality of more dove-like *Gourinæ* (as do also the rock-pigeons) in having the outer toe shorter than the inner, which, accordingly, would indicate a terrene propensity.

† *G. striata* (v. *Col. sinica*, *malaccensis*, *bantamensis*, &c.), common in the Malay countries, appears also to inhabit the Mauritius. Living specimens are occasionally brought to Calcutta, where I have kept both it and *T. humeralis*; and being thus familiar with both, I do not agree with Messrs. Gould and G. R. Gray in making a *Geopelia* of the latter. It serves, however, to show the immediate connexion of the two subgroups.

*G. humeralis* agrees with *G. striata* in having the first primary suddenly

*T. RISORIUS*: *Col. risoria*, Linn. (*Kālhāk, Kāhālāk, Kahalaki*, or *Pānr G'hoogo*, Beng.; *Dhor Fachtah*, S. India.) (GRAY TURTLE-DOVE.) Uniform light gray-brown; the edge of the wing and lower tail-coverts pure ashy, somewhat deeper on the latter; head delicate pale vinous-gray, whiter on the forehead and throat; the nape and under-parts less ashy and more vinaceous, passing to light grayish towards the vent; a narrow black half-collar on the hind-neck; primaries dusky, with slight whitish margins bordering their tips; and closed tail uniform with the back above, all but its middle feathers successively more distinctly marked with black about the middle, passing into grayish on the basal half, and to white on the terminal, successively more strongly pronounced. Irides crimson; bare orbital skin white; bill black; feet dark pinkish-red. Length 13 inches by 20 or a trifle less; wing  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, or sometimes rather more.

Common and generally diffused, frequenting hedges and trees in the neighbourhood of cultivation, and even low bush-jungle: it inclines more to be gregarious than the other species. To the eastward however it seems to be unknown in Arracan. According to Mr. Strickland, the identical species occurs in Northern Africa; and it is likewise stated to inhabit the south-eastern part of Europe, as Hungary, Turkey, and the islands of the Lower Danube\*. In Southern Africa it is replaced by a nearly-allied species, the *Col. vinacea*, Gmelin, to which Mr. G. R. Gray refers *T. erythrophrys* of Swainson, while Mr. Strickland identifies the latter with *T. risorius*, and considers *T. semitorquatus* of Swainson to be the *vinacea*†. Mr. Gray, again, does not mention *semitorquatus* of Swainson, but gives *semitorquatus*, Rüppell, as distinct from either. *T. vinaceus* is distinguished from *T. risorius* by its generally much darker colour, by having the under tail-coverts whitish instead of deep ash, by its much broader black nuchal semi-collar, and by its winglet and primary coverts being dusky instead of pale ash-gray. It is also rather smaller than the Indian species; in which respect, and in the breadth of the nuchal half-collar, the common tame cream-coloured (or pale buff-backed) doves, which are abundantly bred in captivity both in Europe and in India, agree with the South African rather than with the wild Indian species. As for Swainson's two alleged species, I can identify neither of them satisfactorily; his figure

narrowed on both webs near the tip (a character which does not exist in *Turtur*), and I therefore consider *humeralis* to be a true *Geopelia*.—H. E. S.

\* Bull. de l'Acad. des Sciences de Saint Pétersburg, 1837, No. 46; as quoted in the Rev. Zool. par la Société Cuvérienne, 1838, p. 293.

† Vide Strickland in Ann. & Mag. N. H. 1844, p. 38; Gray's illustrated 'Genera of Birds'; and Swainson's 'Birds of West Africa,' vol. ii., Nat. Libr.

of *T. erythrophrys* is evidently faulty in the colouring; but he speaks of "the belly, flanks, vent and under tail-coverts" as "clear cinereous," which should distinguish it from *T. vinaceus*, while its "broad black semi-collar, margined by a narrow cinereous line," instead of a slight grayish-white one, should equally separate it from *T. risorius*; again, "the orbits are naked and rich red," which applies to neither of them: his *T. erythrophrys* has the wing 7 inches, and his *T. semitorquatus* only  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, both the Indian and South African species being in this respect intermediate. *T. semitorquatus* has, further, "the belly, vent, thighs and under tail-coverts cinereous-white," which agrees sufficiently with some specimens, apparently females, of *T. vinaceus*, the (presumed) males having at least the abdomen scarcely paler than the breast; but, "above all, the inner toe is one-twentieth of an inch longer than the outer," whilst "in *erythrophrys* this proportion is almost reversed, or at least the inner toe is not even equal to the outer." In both the Indian and South African birds the inner toe is shorter than the outer\*.

Besides the common cream-coloured domestic race, a small albino variety is frequently bred in cages, in different parts of India, with wing measuring  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches; but its form of tail and other proportions are as in *T. risorius* and *T. vinaceus*. This bird is often interbred with the cream-coloured race, producing offspring of intermediate size and shade of colouring†. The *coo* of *T. risorius* somewhat resembles the sound *cuckoo*, pronounced slowly and with a pause between the syllables, the second being much prolonged and at first rolled. It may not unfrequently be heard in moonlight nights.

*T. HUMILIS*: *Col. humilis*, Temminck: *Asiatic Pigeon*, Latham. (*Serotee Fachtah*, Hind.; *Golabee*, or rose-coloured, *G'hoogoo*, *Támákhüree*, or copper-cup, and *P'tküiyá*, or brick-coloured—Dove, Beng.; *Goodko*, *G'hoogoo?* i. e. Dove, Scinde; *Gyoleng-bya*, Arracan.) (RED TURTLE-DOVE.) Much smaller and of a less elongated form than the last; general colour fine

\* Notwithstanding these apparent inconsistencies, I have no doubt that *erythrophrys* = *risorius*, and *semitorquatus*, Sw. = *vinaceus*. The breadth of the nuchal collar, and even the apparent nakedness of the orbits, greatly depend on the stretching of the skin in preparing the specimen. I have an Indian specimen of *risorius* which exhibits a wide ring of bare skin round the eyes, solely from their being filled with too much cotton. In this specimen the wing measures 7 inches, as in the description of *erythrophrys*. My specimens of *vinacea* from South Africa have the inner toe (including the claw) conspicuously longer than the outer, as is stated of *semitorquatus*.

N.B. The *Turtur semitorquatus* of Rüppell is a distinct species, much like *risorius*, but larger and otherwise different.—H. E. S.

† The "Jungle Pigeon" of Latham would seem to be merely a domestic variety of this kind.

vinous-red, weaker below; the head ash-gray, paler towards the forehead, and whitish on the chin; a black half-collar on the nape; the rump and upper tail-coverts dusky-ash; vent and lower tail-coverts white, the former tinged with ashy; middle tail-feathers ash-brown; the rest successively more broadly tipped with white, which spreads up the whole exterior web of the outermost feather, and their basal two-thirds (more or less) blackish; margin of the wing gray for the anterior half; the primaries and their coverts dusky, and the secondaries grayish-dusky. Irides dark brown; bill black; legs purplish-red. Length  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and of wing  $5\frac{1}{4}$ . Female rather smaller. The young nearly resemble the adults of *T. risorius*, except in their much smaller size, their general darker colour, especially upon the head, and in wholly wanting the vinaceous tinge: in this state of plumage they doubtless constitute the supposed small race of *T. risorius* mentioned by Major Franklin.

The Red Turtle-dove is generally diffused over the country, though much less numerously than the gray one. It also keeps more to cover, frequenting groves and high thick hedges. Its coo is short and grunt-like.

*T. SENEGALENSIS*: *Col. senegalensis*, Linn.: *C. cambaiensis*, Gmelin: *C. aegyptiaca*, Latham: *C. maculicollis*, Wagler:—figured, but not well, and much over-coloured, in Denon's 'Egypt.' (*Tortroo Fachtah*, Hind.) (NECKLACED TURTLE-DOVE.) Brown above, the wing-coverts (except towards the scapularies) pure light gray; winglet, primaries and their coverts dusky, the secondaries tinged with gray; head, upper part of neck and breast pinkish-vinaceous, paler below, and passing to white on the belly and lower tail-coverts; the sides of the neck anteriorly (and meeting imperfectly in front) adorned with a large patch of furcate feathers, black at base, with a round rufous spot on each tip; in the living bird, these hardly appear at all when the neck is drawn in; and unlike the preceding species, there is no bar or other marking on the nape; tail graduated to the depth of an inch, and its feathers attenuate a little towards their tips; the middle tail-feathers are brown; the rest white for the terminal half, or nearly so, and black for the remainder. Irides dark, with a white inner circle; bill blackish; legs lake-red. Length 10 inches or  $10\frac{1}{2}$  by 14 inches; closed wing 5 inches.

This delicate little species abounds in most parts of the peninsula, also in Western and Upper India generally, and it inhabits the Rajmehal and Monghyr hills in Bengal; but in Lower Bengal I have never seen or heard of it wild, nor does it appear to occur in the Himalaya or in the countries to the eastward. In the peninsula, according to Mr. Jerdon, "it abounds both in low jungles and near villages and cantonments, being found especially

towards the north in every garden, and frequenting stable-yards, houses, &c." Like *T. risorius*, it is common to India and North Africa; and Mr. Strickland states that it "inhabits the Turkish burial-grounds at Smyrna and Constantinople, which are dense forests of cypress-trees. It is strictly protected by the Turks, and it was with some difficulty," he adds, "that I could obtain a specimen. It was perhaps originally introduced there by man, but now seems completely naturalized\*." The coo of this species is low, subdued and musical, a dissyllabic sound repeated four or five times successively, and of which its Hindoostanee name *Tortroo* is a sort of imitation †.

*T. SURATENSIS*: *Col. suratensis*, Gmelin, founded on *la Tourterelle de Surate* of Sonnerat: *C. tigrina*, Temminck: *C. turtur*, Linn., var., figured in Griffith's 'Animal Kingdom,' viii. 290. (*Chitroka Fachtah*, Hind.; *Chanral G'hoogoo*, or *Telia G'hoogoo*, Beng.; *Kangskiri*, Bhagulpore; *Chitla*, Upper Provinces; *Lay-byouk*, Arracan.) (SPECKLED TURTLE-DOVE.) Above blackish or dusky, each feather having two pale rufous terminal spots, which latter enlarge and spread up each side of the feather, upon the wing-coverts, the blackish contracting to a central streak, with broad pale vinaceous lateral borders; edge of the wing light gray; head grayish, tinged with vinaceous, which latter prevails on the breast and under-parts, passing to white on the belly and under tail-coverts; a broad half-collar on the nape, consisting of black feathers divergent at the tips, each tip ending in a small round white spot; tail broad and graduated to the depth of an inch and a half or more, each feather attenuating towards its tip; the middle tail-feather brown, the outermost grayish-white for nearly the terminal half, having the rest black, and the other tail-feathers successively intermediate in their colouring. Irides dark hazel, surrounded by a reddish *sclerotica*; beak dull leaden-black; legs dark purplish-red. Length 12 inches by 16½; of wing 5¾ inches; female rather less.

A very familiar species, and generally diffused both throughout India and in the Malay countries, coming very much into gardens even of large towns. It abounds even more than *T. risorius* in the vicinity of Calcutta, where it inhabits every patch of garden; *T. risorius* keeping generally a little away from houses. Its coo is musical and pleasing. Mr. Jerdon mentions having "seen a nearly albino variety once or twice of a pinkish-white colour throughout." This species has been erroneously identified with

\* Proc. Zool. Soc. 1836, p. 100.

† African and European specimens are larger than the Indian ones, the wing measuring 5¾ inches. I have one from the Cape of Good Hope, identical with a Turkish specimen, and more rufous on the back than the Indian bird.—H. E. S.

the *T. chinensis* (*Col. chinensis*, Scopoli, vel *C. risoria*, var. B, Latham), founded on *la Tourterelle grise de la Chine* of Sonnerat, by whom it is correctly figured. The latter is distinguished by its larger size, having the wing and tail respectively six inches long; by the deep ash-colour, instead of white, of its lower tail-coverts; and especially by having the back and wings plain unspotted dark brown, with merely a slight tinge of gray at the bend of the wing only; the spotting of the nape is precisely similar. This bird inhabits China, and the Society possess a specimen of it from Chusan.

T. MEENA: *Col. meena*, Sykes, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 149: *C. agricola*, Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. ii. 581: very closely allied to, if not identical with, *C. orientalis*, Lath., founded on *la Tourterelle brune de la Chine* of Sonnerat, which is certainly also *C. gelastis*, Temminck, Pl. Col. 550. (*Kullah Fachtah*, Hind.; *Sám G'hoogoo*, Beng.; *H'hulgah* of the Mahrattas; *Gyo-pein-doo-ma*, Arracan.) (FOX-COLOURED TURTLE-DOVE.) Vinaceous-brown, lighter on the belly; more or less ruddy, ashy, or even duskyish above; the rump and upper tail-coverts deep gray; vent and lower tail-coverts lighter gray; crown and forehead more or less ashy, passing to whitish towards the bill; throat also whitish in some specimens; on the sides of the neck a patch of black feathers, margined with grayish-white, forming a series of three or four lines of the latter hue; scapularies, and a greater or less proportion of the wing-coverts, black, broadly margined with rufous all round their tips; coverts of the secondaries pale bluish-ash, at least in some specimens; winglet and primaries with their coverts dusky, the primaries slightly edged with whitish; tail dusky-ash, its outer feathers successively more broadly tipped with whitish-ash, whiter on the outermost and beneath; irides orange. Length about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches; of wing commonly 7 inches.

This bird is also pretty generally diffused throughout India, and occurs upon the Himalaya as a summer visitant, arriving in pairs towards the end of March, as I am informed by Capt. Hutton. Mr. Jerdon observed it to be tolerably abundant in the forests of Goomsoor, south of Cuttack, associating in flocks of various sizes. It is enumerated by Mr. Elliot, he adds, as found in the Southern Mahratta country, but was not observed by himself in the forest of Malabar. In the Himalaya, and in the eastern countries of Assam, Sylhet and Arracan, it appears to be plentiful, inhabiting alike the hills and plains; and it is common in the Bengal Soonderbuns. A Javanese specimen is rather large, and very dull-coloured; less vinaceous underneath, with more gray on the head, and less rufous margining the feathers of its mantle, than in any Indian specimen I have seen; never-

theless, the species is probably identical\*. It is nearly allied to *T. auritus*, Ray (*Col. turtur*, Linn.), of Europe, which it resembles in its manners and in its coo, but is distinguished by its superior size; "orange irides instead of yellow; by the whole head (in some), neck, shoulders, breast and belly being richer vinaceous; in the back and rump being ash, and vent and lower tail-coverts light cinereous," &c. The specimens of *T. auritus* from India and China, mentioned by Latham, may accordingly be presumed to have been of the present species. Another nearly-allied dove would seem to exist in *la Tourterelle cendrée de l'Isle de Luçon* of Sonnerat, upon which are founded *Col. cinerea*, Scopoli, and *C. turtur*, var. C, of Latham. Living specimens of the present species, and of the gray, red and speckled turtle-doves, also of the ground dove and of *Treron phænicoptera* and *Tr. bicincta*, are almost always to be seen for sale at the shops of the Calcutta bird-dealers.

*Memorandum*.—The only known Indian Pigeons now wanting to the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, are *Columba Elphinstonii* and Himalayan specimens of *C. palumbus*; also females of *Treron cantillans* and of *Carpophaga insignis*; and good specimens of *Col. leuconota* are acceptable, as also of *C. pulchricollis*. Of species that require verification, there remain the *Treron pompadora* of Ceylon, and *Psammænas Burnesii* of the Western Deserts (?). Also *Col. malabarica*, Lath. (*Colombe brame* of Temminck), founded on *la Tourterelle de la côte de Malabar* of Sonnerat. Size of *Turtur risorius*; head, back and wing pale ash-gray; the neck and breast weak vinous-gray; belly white; some oval black spots on the greater wing-coverts; tail marked with white as in the other Turtle-doves; bill, irides and feet red. Whether the Indian *Carpophaga* ever lay more than a single egg in each nest is also a subject for investigation.—E. B.

April 4, 1846.

\* This Javanese bird is certainly *T. orientalis* (Lath.) and *gelastis* (Temm.), the former of which names holds precedence for the species.

The Indian bird may safely stand as *Turtur orientalis*. To its synonyms may be added that of *Columba ferrago*, Eversmann, 'Addenda ad Pallasii Zoographiam Rosso-Asiaticam,' Casan, part iii. 1842, p. 17, from which it appears that this species extends northwards as far as Songaria.—H. E. S.